

CHAPTER IX

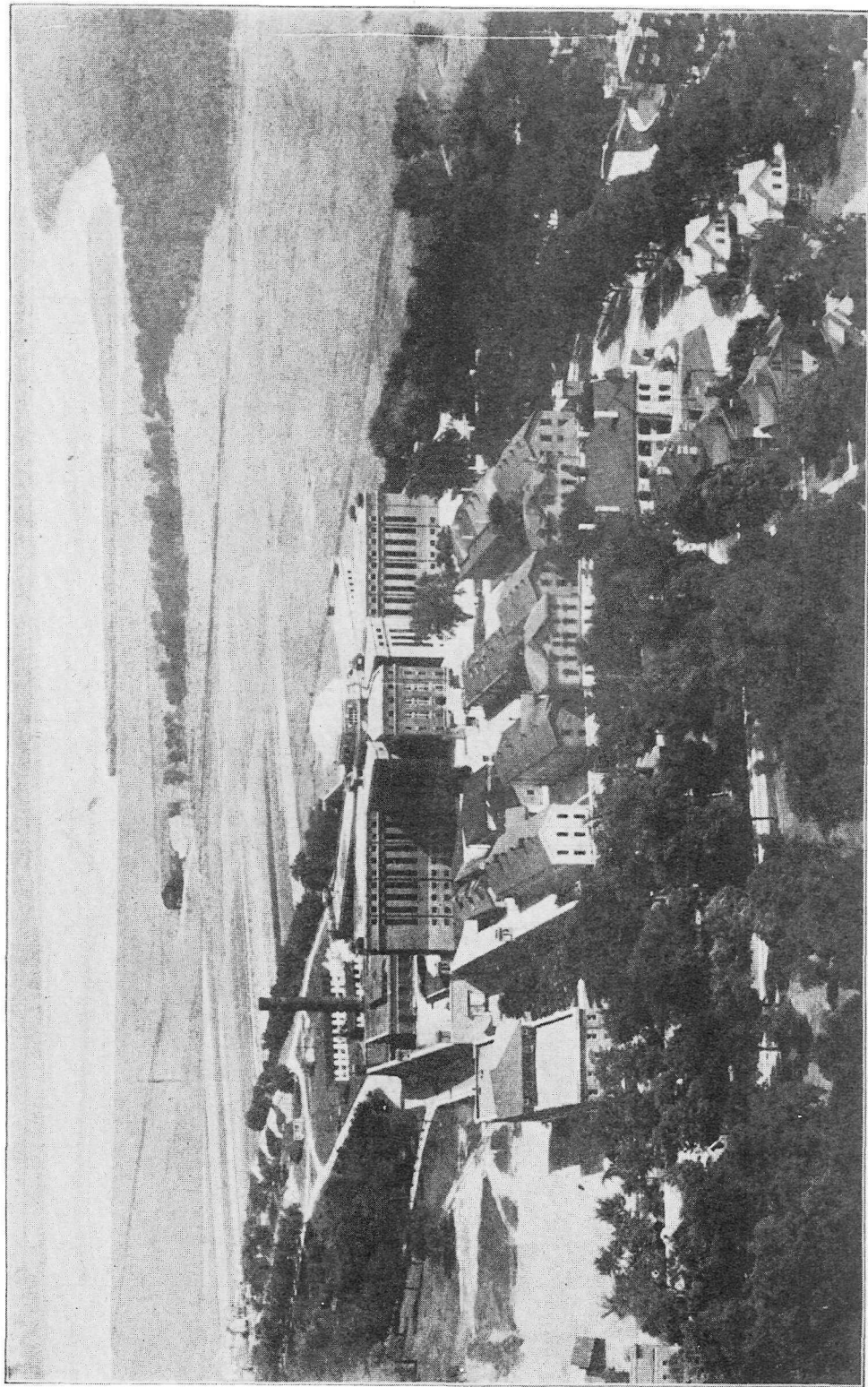
Fort Leavenworth and the Federal Prisons

The great school for Army officers is by no means the only institution located at Fort Leavenworth. In fact, the military school is situated between two large and entirely separate prison colonies—The United States Disciplinary Barracks on the North, and the United States Penitentiary on the south.

The great modern military prison structure of the Disciplinary Barracks dominates the northern part of the Reservation. This is an intensely interesting institution, and although Henry Shindler has already written a book on its history, it seems appropriate to retell some of the more important facts in these pages.

During the period immediately following the Civil War, the conditions surrounding military prisons were very bad. Inadequately constructed and arranged post guardhouses confined both long term prisoners and minor offenders against garrison regulations. These small military prisons required an undue proportion of the time and attention of the commanding officers and their assistants at the different posts. Vexatious problems often arose, the handling of which required special training. Punishments were not uniformly administered and they often were unnecessarily severe.

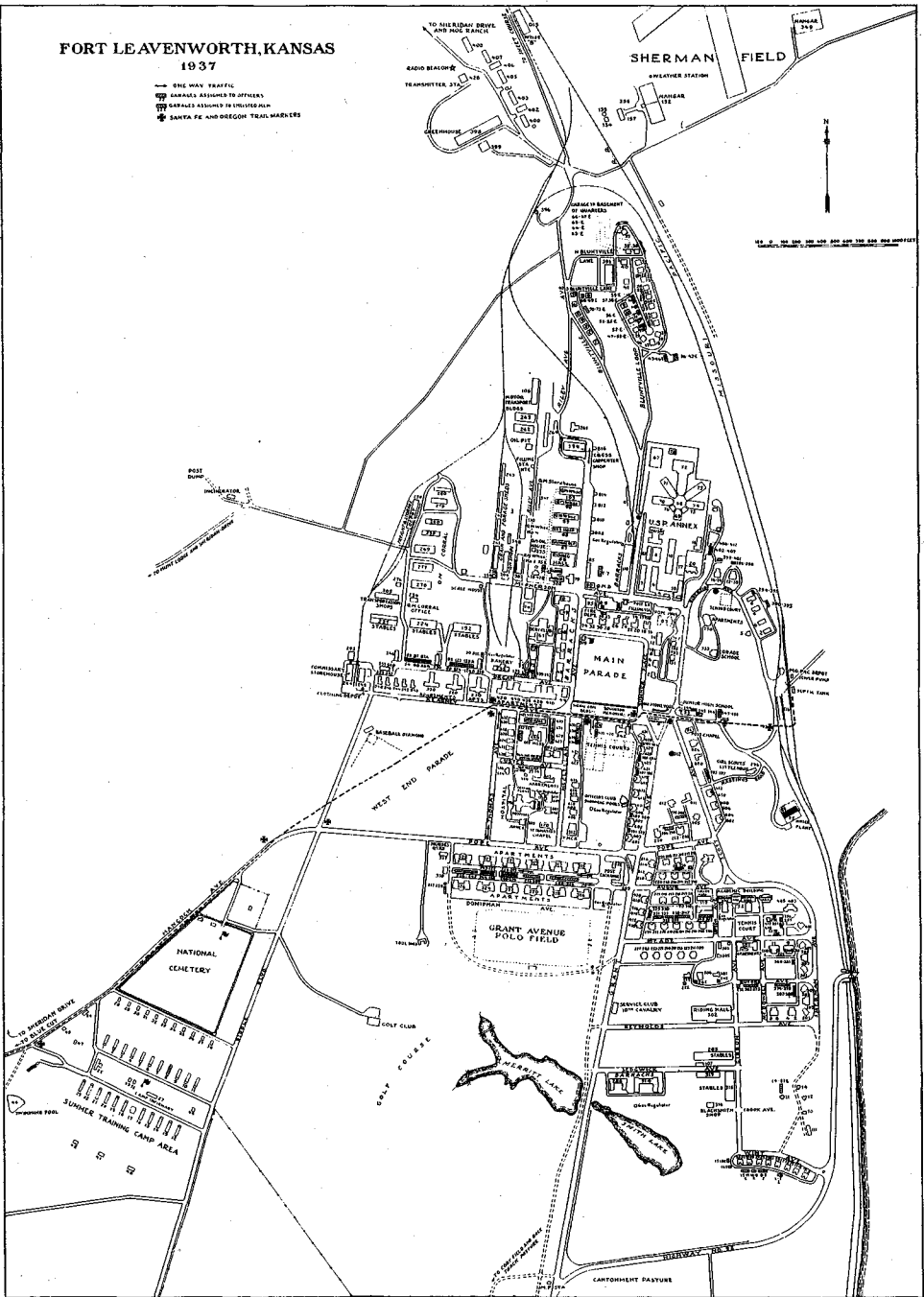
✱To Major Thomas F. Barr, Judge Advocate of the Department of the East, is due the honor of initiating a reform, for in 1871, he submitted a report to the Secretary of War in which he vividly described the unsatisfactory conditions among the prisoners confined at the different military posts. As a result of Major Barr's report, the Secretary of War ordered General Irwin McDowell, commanding the Department of the East, to send a board of officers to visit the British military prisons in Canada with a view to obtaining ideas for the improvement of our own disciplinary system. This board, consisting of Colonel Jef-



AIRPLANE VIEW OF THE UNITED STATES DISCIPLINARY BARRACKS IN 1925
(Showing the modern radial cell structure built by the prisoners.)

FORT LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS
1937

- ONE WAY TRAFFIC
- CARRIAGES ASSIGNED TO OFFICERS
- SARAFES ASSIGNED TO INFANTRY
- SANTA FE AND OREGON TRAIL MARKERS



person C. Davis, 23d Infantry; Major John M. Brannon, 1st Artillery; Major Thomas F. Barr, Judge Advocate; and 1st Lieutenant Asa Bird Gardiner, 1st Artillery, was cordially given opportunity by the Canadian authorities to make thorough inspections of the Army prisons in Montreal and Quebec. The board was impressed by the apparent superiority of the British method of handling prisoners. Its report made special mention of the appropriate and convenient construction and arrangement of the prisons, the systematic handling of the prisoners, the means of keeping the prisoners at work, and especially the disciplinary control coupled with the classification system which favored good behavior and tended toward the reformation of the prisoner.

The Board outlined the apparent mission of the British army prison officials in the following language:

* "They (the officials) are continually cautioned to bear in mind that the chief object of establishing a prison exclusively for military offenders is to maintain discipline in the army, to reform offenders, and to repress repetition of military offenses.

"For this purpose it is made their duty to endeavor, while rigidly enforcing the discipline of the prison, to instill soldier-like and moral principles into the mind of every prisoner, by which he may see that interest is taken in his welfare, and that by the good advice and kindly admonition of all, endeavors are made to convince him of his error, and to encourage him to aim at future good conduct and the attainment of a respectable character in the service.

The most important recommendation of the Board was that a military prison be established for the United States Army.

Secretary of War William W. Belknap promptly urged that this recommendation be enacted into a law, and on March 3, 1873, an Act of Congress was approved, providing for the establishment of a federal military prison to be located on Rock Island, Illinois.

A further study of the problem involved developed the fact that the military prison would interfere somewhat with

the important and busy manufacturing Ordnance Depot on Rock Island, and upon the recommendation of another board of which Colonel Nelson A. Miles, 5th Infantry, was president, the original Act was amended on May 27, 1874, and Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, was substituted for Rock Island.

At first it was proposed to adapt the arsenal buildings at Fort Leavenworth, which now house the Command and General Staff School, to the uses of the new prison, but later decision made use of the buildings pertaining to the Quartermaster Department, which since the beginning of the Post had been located on the present site of the Disciplinary Barracks.

War Department Orders of April 30, 1875, detailed Major James M. Robinson, 3d Artillery, as commanding officer of the new prison, and Captain Asa P. Blunt of the Quartermaster Department as Quartermaster. Other names connected with the initial administration were: Captain Edmund Rice, First Lieutenant James W. Pope, and First Lieutenant Quinton Campbell, all of the 5th Infantry. Prisoners began to arrive, transferred from various posts throughout the United States, and an important forward step in Army progress was inaugurated.

Major Robertson remained in command of the prison for two years when he was relieved by Captain Blunt who was designated as Governor. Captain Blunt retained command for eleven years.

The commander of the Department of the Missouri, Major General John Pope, gave interested assistance in establishing the prison and he set apart for its use about one hundred acres in the northern part of the reservation. By the 30th of September, 1875, two hundred and twenty-five men were confined in the prison, and in the same month of the next year, this number had increased to three hundred and thirty-two. Good building stone was available in the Post quarries, and in 1876, the prisoners began the construction of a great stone wall around their buildings. In 1877, the making of Army shoes was started in order to provide useful occupation and opportunity for trade instruction. This and other manufacturing industries developed very successfully, and by 1889 had reached the annual capacity of 5,000 pairs of boots, 30,000 pairs of shoes, 25,000

corn brooms, and 4,000 barrack chairs. Later the boot and shoe manufacture came into conflict with outside interests and was discontinued.

War Department Orders of December 21, 1883, published a revision of the prison regulations under which the designation of the head of the prison was changed from Governor to Commandant.

In 1888, Captain James W. Pope succeeded Captain Blunt as Commandant, in which capacity he continued until 1895.

The successful establishment of a federal military prison may have had an influence in directing the thought of Congress toward the establishment of a civil prison for the confinement of criminals convicted of violations of the laws of the United States. At any rate, in the year 1891, Congress authorized the establishment of three such civil institutions to be conveniently distributed throughout the country. However, it was unfortunate that provision was not made for funds to render the law effective, for attention began to be directed to the possibility of turning the Fort Leavenworth Military Prison into a federal civil prison. In fact, in spite of all arguments to the contrary, such a transfer was directed by Congress, and on July 1, 1895, the Department of Justice took over the plant and inaugurated the United States Penitentiary. Care of military prisoners then reverted to a modified post guardhouse system, certain selected posts being designated as "prison posts."

The enforced return of the Army to the old system which it had cheerfully abandoned twenty years past, was not productive of good results as shown by the following report of The Adjutant General for 1895:

"It appears from the reports of the several division and department commanders that the present system of post prisons, which was inaugurated when the Fort Leavenworth Military prison was turned over to the Department of Justice to be used as a United States penitentiary, is unsatisfactory and demoralizing. Practically all of these reports for the fiscal years, 1904 and 1905, show that the guard houses at the various posts are overcrowded. In a number of these reports attention is invited to the demoralizing ef-

fect of the contact, brought about by the present system, between men convicted of serious military offenses and young soldiers who are assigned to guard them or who are undergoing short sentences of confinement for slight offenses. It has also been suggested that the establishment of a general prison for the confinement of military convicts will be a relief to garrisons in that it will lessen the amount of guard duty, will afford more men for purely military duties, will give the government a substantial return from the prisoners' labor for the expense of keeping them, and will afford opportunities for teaching the prisoners trades instead of developing a spirit of laziness among them."

The Department of Justice quickly recognized that the old adapted Quartermaster storehouses were unsuitable for a creditable federal prison, and its representatives brought about the approval on July 10, 1896, of an Act of Congress, the first section of which read as follows:

"Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled: That the Attorney General is hereby authorized and directed to select on the military reservation at Leavenworth, Kansas, within limits hereinafter described, a site for the erection of a penitentiary and other buildings, wall, and workshops for the employment of United States prisoners which such improvements as he may direct in connection with the completion of the several buildings; said penitentiary to be of a capacity to accommodate at least 1200 convicts, and to be situated on said grounds and within the following boundary lines: Beginning at a point at the northwestern intersection of Grant and Logan Avenues, thence north seventy-two degrees west more or less, forty-five hundred feet more or less to a stone in a field north of the government farm barn, thence due west fifteen hundred feet more or less to the north side of Logan Avenue; thence along said avenue and its prolongation to the western boundary of the military reservation; thence south along said line to the southwest corner of said reservation to the pike leading north from the city of Leavenworth to the post

of Fort Leavenworth; thence north along said pike to the point of beginning; and that these grounds thus described shall be, and hereby are set apart from the contiguous military reservation for United States penitentiary purposes, and assigned to and placed under control of the Attorney General as a United States penitentiary reservation. Provided, That when the United States Penitentiary shall be occupied and applied to the purpose contemplated by this act, the buildings and grounds within said military reservation of Fort Leavenworth that were transferred from the Department of War to the Department of Justice, in accordance with the provisions of the Act of Congress, approved March 2, 1895, shall be restored to the control of the said Department of War; And provided further, That this prison reservation shall be open for military tactical purposes, when such purposes do not interfere with the discipline of the said prison."

On February 1, 1906, construction on the civil prison permitted the restoration of the former military prison to control of the War Department which immediately reestablished the military institution which had been discontinued in 1895. The Secretary of War, in his report of 1908, indicated that this action was gratifying. He said:

"The reestablishment of the United States military prison at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, early in 1906, which made it possible to resume the practice of sending long term military convicts to undergo their terms of confinement at hard labor in that institution, and to abandon the practice that was necessarily adopted when the military prison was turned over to the Department of Justice in 1895, of permitting convicts to serve their terms at military posts. Undoubtedly the knowledge that the convicted deserters will be compelled to undergo the rigors of prison discipline and to suffer the stigma of prison confinement instead of being permitted to serve their terms with more comfort, less disrepute, and greater chances for escape among their former comrades in the much more congenial surroundings at military posts, has deterred many would be deserters from taking the step that they would have been ready to

take if they had seen no severer punishment before them in the event of capture than a comparatively short term of confinement at some military post."

Inasmuch as the Department of Justice, during its brief tenure of the military prison buildings, had so successfully demonstrated the unsuitability of those buildings, it was logical that the reestablished Military Prison should be given an appropriation for new construction. Adequate funds were provided in the Act of May 27, 1908, and the work of carrying out the detailed plans, which had been prepared in the office of the Quartermaster General, devolved upon the new commandant, Major Thomas H. Slavens of the Quartermaster Department. The plans for reconstruction called for an extension of the prison enclosure to the north and an entirely new cell house built on the radial plan. The front of the prison was to be improved by a new structure, joining the ends of the old prison buildings. Rock quarries, brick making, and stone cutting yards, saw mills and all the various agencies of construction were quickly developed on the military reservation, practically all of the work being done by prisoners. In fact, during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1910, the value of the labor furnished by the prisoners was computed to be over four hundred thousand dollars.

By an Act of Congress in 1915, the name of the institution was changed from the United States Military Prison to the United States Disciplinary Barracks. This Act also provided that prisoners whose record and conduct so warranted should be placed under military training with a view to their earning an honorable restoration to duty instead of serving out their remaining sentences of confinement. With these changes, a system of discipline was inaugurated in thorough accord with modern opinion as to the duties and obligations of those who are in charge of delinquents; that is, that the main purpose of the Disciplinary Barracks is the mental, moral, and physical improvement of the individual, in order that he may leave the institution better equipped to take up the duties of a soldier or of a civilian. This work of restoration was brought about first by psychological examination of the prisoner with analysis and

classification of his defects with a view to estimating the character of the man and assigning him to the vocational and general training best suited to his improvement. This system was perfected particularly due to the skill and efforts of Major Edgar King of the Medical Corps, who gave ten years of his service to the duties of Psychiatrist at the institution. After analysis, classification, and assignment of the prisoners, came the daily operation of the restoration process, consisting of selected activity, helpful observation and guidance, opportunity for improvement in education and in trade efficiency, and the stimulus of advancement and improvement by means of the prisoner classification system.

The successive commandants who followed Major Slavens—Colonels Herbert J. Slocum and Sedgwick Rice, both of the cavalry; Brigadier General James H. McRae; Colonels Malvern-Hill Barnum and George O. Cress of the cavalry, William M. Morrow of the infantry, enthusiastically and skillfully continued the development of the Disciplinary Barracks. It became a model institution of remarkable efficiency. The major construction program included the great radial cell building with a housing capacity of 2500 men, an extremely up-to-date barrack building for housing the guards, and thoroughly modern farm buildings. Within the prison enclosure are work and instruction shops in which were taught many useful trades. The institution maintained a model dairy farm with a fine herd of Holstein cattle, a chicken ranch, and a hog ranch. It also farmed many acres of the rich flat lands along the Missouri River. The proceeds of these enterprises went toward reducing the cost and maintenance of the institution.

All the prisoners in the Disciplinary Barracks were soldiers or former soldiers sent to the barracks from military posts throughout the central part of the United States. More distant posts sent prisoners either to the Atlantic Branch of the Disciplinary Barracks at Fort Jay, New York Harbor; or to the Pacific Branch at Alcatraz Island in California. The most common offenses of these prisoners were desertion, fraudulent enlistment, larceny, and assault. Their terms of confinement were from one to two years, with a few serious offenders having longer sentences. Soldiers

convicted of the more serious felonies usually were confined in federal penitentiaries. The number of prisoners in the Disciplinary Barracks averaged 1050. All of these men were not qualified to be soldiers. Many were unfitted because of mental deficiencies, delinquent tendencies, and physical defects. About 20 per cent were restored to active and honorable duty in the Army with an improvement in personal efficiency and with a better mental attitude toward responsibility and duty. Those who returned to civil life were greatly improved in character and general efficiency. The achievements of the Disciplinary Barracks justified the faith of those who founded it and of those whose persistent efforts contributed to its success.

On September 1, 1929, word was received that the U. S. Disciplinary Barracks would be turned over to the Department of Justice. The lease was signed on September 14, 1929 for a period of five years. During the period from September 1 to 16, guards and prisoners were sent to Alcatraz, Governor's Island and various posts throughout the country. Some prisoners were released per remittance of sentence or on parole; 130 prisoners were transferred to the post of Fort Leavenworth. The Guard and Service Company moved into the U. S. Disciplinary Barracks Guard Quarters on September 17th. On September 18th, 1929 a joint board consisting of War Department and Department of Justice representatives met at Fort Leavenworth to make a survey and inventory of the buildings, fixtures and property. The Department of Justice moved into the U. S. Disciplinary Barracks on September 21, 1929. The lease has since been renewed to include June 30, 1938.

THE UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY

Attempt will be made herein to recount the details of the history of the other prison colony at Fort Leavenworth, the United States Penitentiary, which by authority of the Act of Congress, approved July 10, 1896, transferred from the buildings now controlled by the Disciplinary Barracks, which buildings it had occupied since July 1, 1895, and began to build a new institution on a designated area in the southwestern part of the Fort Leavenworth reservation.

This civil institution under the control of the Department of Justice naturally has little official contact with the military activities at Fort Leavenworth, but relations have always been harmonious. The clause in the law of establishment stating that "this prison reservation shall be open for military tactical purposes, when such purposes do not interfere with the discipline of said prison" has occasioned no controversies. On several occasions, practical cooperation between the civil institution and the Fort have been effected.

By the Act of May 31, 1924, Congress authorized the transfer of the 900-acre tract of land, which formed part of the military reservation on the east side of the Missouri River, to the Department of Justice. This area consists of rich bottom land along the river, and the purpose of the transfer was to provide additional agricultural land which the civil prisoners might farm.

In order to give access to the land, the Fort Leavenworth Bridge was reconstructed out of the old Rock Island Bridge by the Department of Justice from funds available to them and a certain amount contributed to them by the War Department. The bridge was opened for traffic in 1926.

Fort Leavenworth has observed the development of an imposing group of buildings and the working out of an agricultural and industrial system at the Federal Penitentiary of which the Department of Justice may well be proud.

CHAPTER X

Fort Leavenworth and Developments After 1881

Several new activities followed the establishment of the School of Application for Cavalry and Infantry at Fort Leavenworth. In 1887, it appeared desirable to name the streets and roads in the Post. In accordance with the usual military custom, a Board of Officers studied the matter and its recommendations were generally accepted. At this time, the former Arsenal Avenue became Scott Avenue, the old Fort Road to the city of Leavenworth became Grant Avenue, and the street north and east of the Main Parade was designated Sumner Place. Up to the year, 1888, there was no street car service in the Post. In 1888, a so-called "dummy line" was built which was electrified in 1914. The little steam train on this line left the city of Leavenworth at the end of Third Street and inclining eastward it proceeded along the slope of the river bank, finally reaching a small terminal building located in the valley west of the present Missouri Pacific station.

In 1889, the Post Commander, Colonel Nelson A. Miles, organized a monument committee for the purpose of bringing about the erection at the Fort of a suitable memorial to General U. S. Grant. As a result, a bronze statue of General Grant, by the distinguished sculptor, Lorado Taft, was erected at the head of Grant Avenue and dedicated with suitable ceremonies.

During the summer of 1885, in consequence of a reported outbreak by the Cheyenne Indians, the four troops of cavalry on duty at the Post left for field service and spent the months of July and August in guarding the southern boundary of the State of Kansas against possible incursions by hostile Indians.

The instructional work in the Department of Cavalry of the school was interrupted on December 1, 1890, by the

department of two of the cavalry troops for Dakota for service against Indians. The cavalry instructors accompanied the troops which were joined by two troops from Fort Riley, and they did not return until the 26th of January. Company H of the 7th Infantry stationed at the Post was also in field service in Dakota during the same period.

With the year 1898, came the Spanish-American War. The school was discontinued. During the month of April, instructors and student officers individually received orders to join commands. The 20th Infantry and a squadron of the 6th Cavalry left for the concentration camps; and by April 24 only eight officers and thirty-one enlisted men remained at the Fort. The city of Leavenworth quickly raised a volunteer company and on May 11 it was mustered in, under Captain W. S. Albright, as Company "C" of the 20th Kansas Infantry. Soon it was on its way to the Pacific Coast and the Philippines. During the war, two volunteer organizations, the 32d and the 44th U. S. Volunteer Infantry Regiments, were organized at the Fort and sent to the front.

Decoration Day of 1902 was a memorable day in the history of Fort Leavenworth, for on that day many thousands of people assembled at the Post in honor of the transfer of the remains of General Henry Leavenworth from Delhi, New York, to the National Cemetery at the Fort. The occasion included a great military procession and the unveiling of the Leavenworth monument with appropriate ceremonies. Many distinguished guests were present, among them several descendants of General Leavenworth, also Mr. Lewis B. Dougherty, of Liberty, Missouri, who was the first white child born in Leavenworth, and the second born in Kansas, the first being the son of Indian Agent Boone of the Shawnee Mission near Lawrence. Mr. Dougherty was the son of Major John Dougherty, Indian agent at Fort Leavenworth. He was born at the Fort on December 7, 1828. He died at Liberty, Missouri, in August, 1925, having nearly lived the span of the Post's first hundred years.

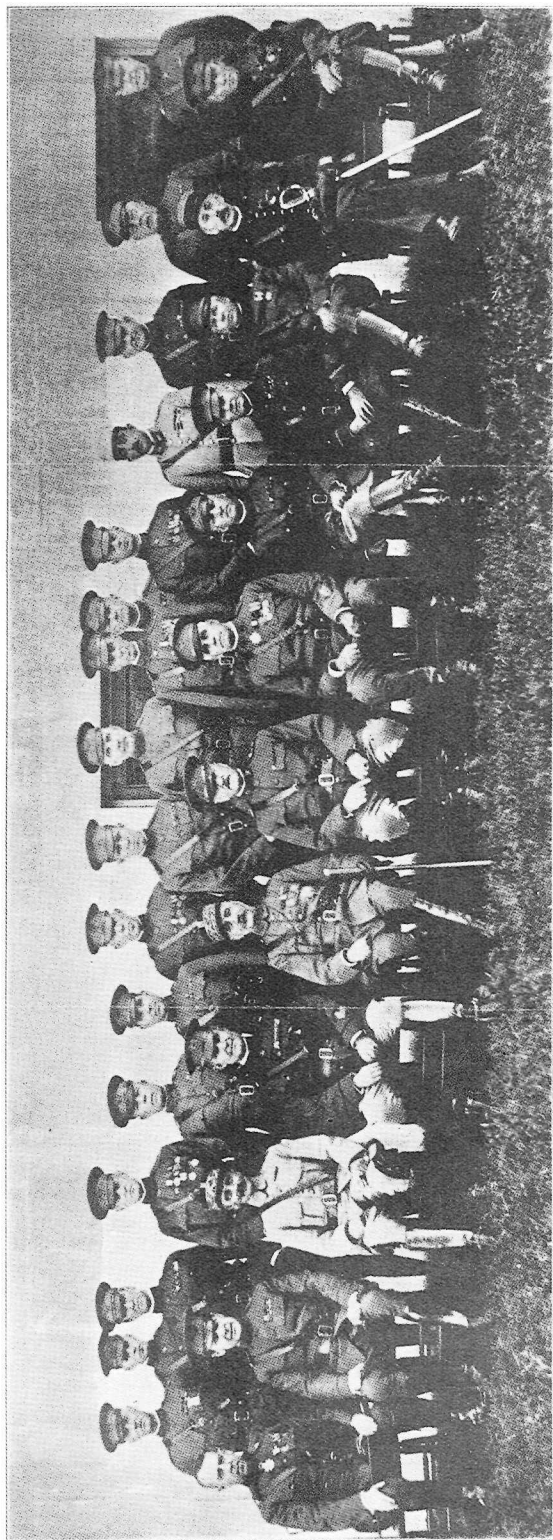
In 1900 a Board of Officers convened by the War Department and consisting of Colonels J. G. D. Knight, Corps of Engineers; G. E. Pond, Quartermaster Corps; M. Macomb, Artillery Corps; C. Richards, Medical Corps; and

Captain R. H. Allen, Infantry, made a report involving a comprehensive building plan for Fort Leavenworth, to house the School and to maintain one regiment of infantry, one squadron of cavalry, one battalion of engineers, one battery of artillery, one company of the Signal Corps, and the necessary detachments of the Medical Corps. This was the basis for the considerable amount of construction which was done during the period, 1903-1905.

Much of the progress at Fort Leavenworth has been made possible by the support given by Congressman Daniel R. Anthony, Jr., during his long service, beginning in 1907, in the House of Representatives. Credit is also due to various organizations and especially to the press of Leavenworth from the time when the first newspaper was printed on the Levee in 1854, through the Seventies when Colonel Daniel R. Anthony presided so forcefully and picturesquely over the fortunes of the *Leavenworth Times*, and continuing to the present day activities of that journal and the many friends and appreciators of Fort Leavenworth.

During the World War, Fort Leavenworth became a very active training center and gave initial intensive training to many newly appointed officers and to many units of special troops formed from the drafted men. The cooperation of the citizens of Leavenworth in soldier welfare work during this period was especially notable. The city of Leavenworth and the Fort were especially proud of the World War service of the home company which trained at Camp Doniphan, Fort Sill, Oklahoma, as Company E, 3d Kansas Infantry, and which, under the leadership of its successive captains, Carl Bostwick and Charles H. Brown, made a fine record overseas as Company E, 139th Infantry, of the 35th Division.

Great leaders in the World War knew well the part that Fort Leavenworth played in securing the victory, and after the war they made special visits of appreciation to the Post. On January 9, 1920, the Fort and the city united in greeting General John J. Pershing. In Leavenworth on that day his appearance and speeches were characteristically appropriate, but special feeling could be noted in his looks and in his few words when late in the day he greeted



MARSHAL FOCH AND GENERAL PERSHING AT FORT LEAVENWORTH, NOVEMBER 2, 1921

Standing (left to right): Col. F. L. Munson, Lt. L. B. Eby, Col. F. Parker, Col. H. J. Bress, Col. J. M. Morgan, Col. H. B. Crosby, Col. R. H. Allen, Maj. G. C. Marshall, Col. P. R. Ward, Col. T. A. Roberts, Col. L. Brown, Col. T. W. Darrah, Maj. de Merry, Col. W. Howell, Col. E. B. Fuller, Col. A. Ferguson.

Satled (left to right): Brig. Gen. J. Haysard, Brig. Gen. A. J. Rowdy, Maj. Gen. Destelder, Brig. Gen. W. D. Connor, Marshal F. Foch, General J. J. Pershing, Maj. Gen. H. E. Eby, Col. H. A. Drum, Col. P. B. Malone, Col. N. F. McClure, Lieut. Col. Person, Col. E. E. Booth.

the assembly of Fort Leavenworth officers and their wives at the Post. To quote General Pershing's words, the occasion was like a "meeting of old friends at a family reunion."

We have a vivid impression of the dynamic personality of Marshal Ferdinand Foch when on November 2, 1921, the Fort Leavenworth officers grouped closely around him in front of Grant, Sherman, and Sheridan Halls of the schools and he talked briefly to them. In part he spoke as follows:

"I am particularly pleased to find myself at Fort Leavenworth today among you all in this cradle of the Staff of the American Army. Almost all of you have actively participated in the War, and the services rendered by you have plainly shown the character and the value of the instruction in this School."

Marshal Foch included in his talk at this time the following fundamental remarks concerning the purpose of military school systems, which ought to be recorded:

"One must not study with an idea of crystallizing his ideas along one line, but to train his thought so as to be able to change rapidly in accordance with the changes that war brings on. In other words, not only must one have a precise and accurate tactical knowledge of up-to-date military matters, but he must likewise have a general development of his brain; in fact a general culture exceedingly vast. One can only get these results at a time when the mind is not only ready to carry and receive, but when life has brought experience to the mind."

Since the World War, the successive commandants at Fort Leavenworth have not only brought the inspiration and experience of their distinguished war service to the student officers assembled at Fort Leavenworth, but also seemed to have considered Fort Leavenworth as a memorial to the service of the trained military leaders of the Nation. Each commander has initiated constructive developments in the Post—Generals C. H. Muir, H. E. Ely, and H. A. Drum reclaiming it from the natural neglect of the war days and leading their commands in the development

of splendid athletic fields; H. A. Smith and E. L. King directing comprehensive studies and plans for post improvement; S. Heintzelman, H. J. Brees and C. M. Bundel supervising extensive Post construction and developing advanced military thought and modern methods of instruction at the School.

Fort Leavenworth now contains the Headquarters of the Missouri-Kansas District Civilian Conservation Corps. This headquarters handles the administration and supply of all Civilian Conservation companies in the two states. All departments of the headquarters with the exception of finance and hospitalization are housed in the Motor Transport Shop and Warehouse in the Cantonment Area.

On April 5, 1933, the War Department ordered the establishment of a Reconditioning Camp for Civilian Conservation Corps enrollees at Fort Leavenworth. On April 8, 1933, a number of officers and enlisted men of the 17th Infantry were detailed to duties at this camp. By May 30, 1933 additional regular army officers had been ordered to duty with the Civilian Conservation Corps at Fort Leavenworth. District Headquarters was established on June 4, 1933. Prior to that time it had been functioning under Post Headquarters.

During the first enrollment, 4817 enrollees were processed at the Reconditioning Camp at Fort Leavenworth, a total of 24 companies; 11 additional companies were organized at Jefferson Barracks, Missouri. Three companies were sent to Oregon, two to California, six to Minnesota, seven to Arkansas, and the remainder to Kansas and Missouri projects. Since the inception of the Civilian Conservation Corps, 30,834 men have been processed at Fort Leavenworth. In the Missouri-Kansas District approximately 64,000 men have been enrolled in the two states and 102 companies organized.

District Headquarters is commanded by a District Commander (the Commanding Officer of Fort Leavenworth up to December 1, 1936), assisted by an Executive Officer, a District Quartermaster, and a Special Inspector, all regular army officers. In addition to the above, the District Commander has a staff of ten Reserve Officers of the line.

Work Company No. 2731, C.C.C. organized at this Post on July 6, 1934 was assigned to work on the reservation. This company was replaced by Work Company No. 4717 on November 2, 1935 and now occupies the fine camp erected in the Cantonment Area just north of the Motor Transport Repair Shop. These companies were used for the betterment of the Post in stopping soil erosion, in cutting fire lanes and trails, in pruning and protecting trees, and in planting thousands of trees and shrubs throughout the inhabited part of the reservation.

Until June 15, 1936, a Headquarters Company was maintained, the members of which acted as clerks, typists, and laborers in the various departments of the Headquarters of the Missouri-Kansas District. This company has since been disbanded and its members given civilian employment in the headquarters. At the present time the headquarters employs 174 civilians.

At the present time the Missouri-Kansas District Headquarters services sixty-one companies in the district, administering to over ten thousand men. In addition to the companies within the district, it furnishes replacements for thirty-nine Missouri and Kansas Companies in the Ninth Corps Area. These replacements are shipped every quarter. District Headquarters also provides for the establishment and operation of the Reconditioning Camp in the C. M. T. C. area of the Post. This camp normally functions at the end of each six months enrollment period for the discharge of casuals, for the assembly and shipment of replacements, and for the organization of new companies.

Fort Leavenworth has completed its one hundred and tenth year. Great changes have taken place since that day in the spring of 1827 when Colonel Leavenworth's men tied their keel boats to the banks of the Missouri River and pitched their camp under the trees at the top of the bluffs. The little outpost was then the farthest west of our settlements and it signified that the power of the United States Army would protect our commerce and colonization in the "winning of the West."

The western country quickly passed the prediction made by James F. Melines, who wrote in 1866:

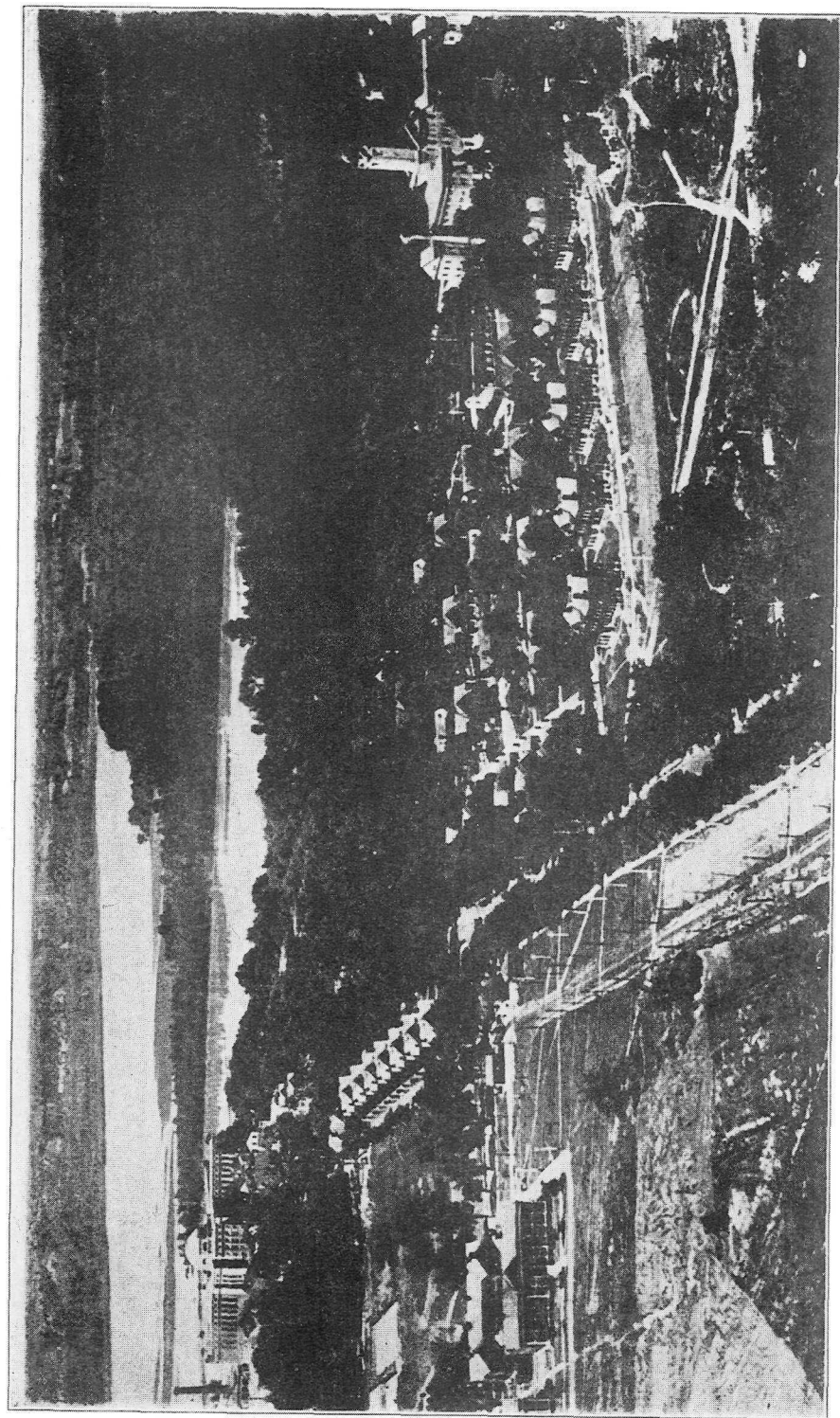
"Within the memory of living men, the adventurous traveler from the Atlantic cities to the Great West made his outfit and start first from Schenectady, then Chambersburg, then Clarksburg, (Va.). Later came Limestone (now Marysville), Kaskaskia, St. Louis, and Independence. Now even Leavenworth is getting too far east, and soon the iron rail will clamp East and West together leaving neither plains nor savage frontier for dangerous wayfaring and exciting adventure with horse and rifle."

It hardly seems possible that even this eager American civilization could have made, during the one hundred and ten years, the remarkable progress which is evidenced around and to the west of Fort Leavenworth. The progress in transportation most excites our wonder. In 1827, the best way to get men and materials out into the West was by labored keel boat or precarious shallow-draft steamboats traversing the Missouri River; then came the pack mules and the covered wagons threading their way over the crude Santa Fe and Oregon Trails; some improvement in the safety and condition of the trails brought the stage coaches and the pony express; and then the railroads reached into the West. Now a great network of paved roads reaches past Fort Leavenworth and these roads often are crowded with swift automobiles; and the progress of the airplane indicates that we are entering a new transportation era of almost unlimited possibilities.

In the early days, Fort Leavenworth occupied a position of readiness, and guarded the commerce and colonization of America while it was reaching out into the West. During these days, it frequently came forth and did its work; and again, during the World War, Fort Leavenworth demonstrated its great value.

Today Fort Leavenworth leads in the development of advanced military thought in the United States. The Honorable Harry H. Woodring, Secretary of War, at the graduation exercises of The Command and General Staff School, on June 21, 1937, said:

" . . . It is the cradle of modern tactics. Here the embryo general may maneuver to glorious victory on



AIRPLANE VIEW OF FORT LEAVENWORTH, 1920
(The General Service Schools buildings at the right; the U. S. D. B. buildings at the left.)

well-conned maps his paper forces. Here he learns under the skilled guidance of experts the powers and limitations of various branches, and the potentialities of new implements of warfare.

"Leavenworth may be said to be the metronome of the service. It establishes the training tempo of the army.

"Its students are by no means confined to those within the limits of this old post. Through correspondence courses and through its splendid publications, Leavenworth has attracted as students hundreds of officers who have never seen this post. Each year scores of new alumni from Leavenworth carry modern military doctrine to Army posts throughout the country and in our island possessions. Many of them are included in the faculties of our special service schools where the principles enunciated here are taught to junior officers."

So today we find Fort Leavenworth in its usual place, a little to one side of the main trails, out of the public eye and mind for the present, but preparing with the greatest energy for its next service to the nation.

